

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 35-46 are patentable over the prior art. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Date: August 29, 2008

Vesuvius
250 Park West Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275
(412) 429-1800 x6921, (412) 429-3448 fax
thomas.clinton@us.vesuvius.com

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Clinton
Reg. No. 40,561